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## A Clipper Visit: Ligaya Garran

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The paths we take in life are not always straightforward or linear. From the Philippines to Japan to Australia to the U.S., Duxbury resident Ligaya Garran knows a thing or two about unique life paths. Born and raised in the Philippines, Garran left home at 18. "But really, I turned 18 on an airplane to Japan," she said with a chuckle. In Japan, Garran attended Shinjuku Green School to learn to read, write and speak Japanese. Then in the late 1980's, she and a friend saw a Brisbane Expo ad calling for bilingual speakers. They applied and sure enough, were hired.

"My friend and I were ecstatic," she recalls. So, Garran packed up and moved to Australia where she obtained a work permit and eventually, Australian citizenship.

In 1990, Ligaya met Peter Garran in Queensland, Australia. She immediately knew he was a "yank" from the way he pronounced "tomato," and in 1993, they got married.

Soon after, they became parents to two girls – Alejandra and Keera.

Then in 1997, the Garrans moved to Duxbury to be closer to Peter's parents.

"That was in the early years of internet," Mrs. Garran recalled. "I said, 'show me where we are moving' and one of the first things I saw was that it said Duxbury was 99% caucasian. So I was really nervous."

Since then, Garran has not only adapted to life in Duxbury but has become a wellknown and beloved neighbor to many, including Skip Bennett who frequently visits her kitchen to indulge in her fine cooking.

Beyond cooking, Garran has pursued her passion of early childhood education by teaching at Bay Farm Montessori Academy in Duxbury and the Bilingual Montessori School in Boston.

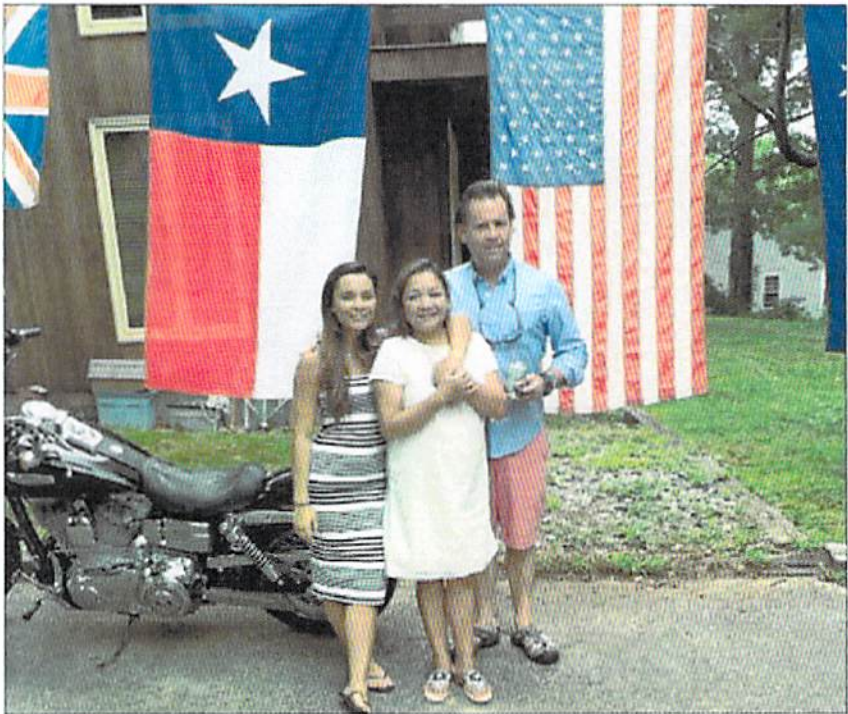
Now she plans to open up her own Duxbury Day School in the basement of Duxbury's Unitarian Church.

"What I love about Duxbury is that I'm lucky to be in a beautiful place like this. It's an all-American place," Garran said. "I know all the people. And they are very relaxed and helpful."

But perhaps her favorite part about Duxbury is, "the connection to the ocean and the community that loves and relies on it," she said. "We can harvest food from the sea and feed our families."



**Ligaya, Alejandra and Keera Garran smile for the camera.**



**Alejandra , Ligaya and Peter Garran pose for a picture. Courtesy Photos**